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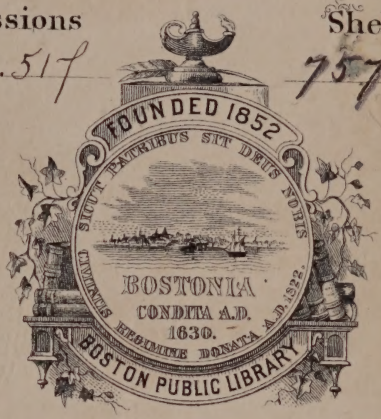

Received May 2, 1889.

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THE

CHILDREN'S MISSION:

WHAT IT IS

AND

WHAT IT DOES.

INSTITUTED, 1849. — INCORPORATED, 1864.

BOSTON:
ROOMS OF THE CHILDREN'S MISSION,
277 Tremont Street, opposite Common Street.
1884.

Officers of the Children's Mission.

1883–84.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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WILLIAM CROSBY.

Missionaries.

Rev. JOSEPH E. BARRY, Mrs. ELIZ. D. BARRY, Miss FRANCES A. EWER.

Matron, Mrs. H. M. PEABODY. *Physician*, J. FOSTER BUSH, M.D.

THE CHILDREN'S MISSION HOME is on Tremont Street, opposite Common Street, where the business of the Society is conducted, and where the Superintendent or one of the Missionaries may be found daily from 9 o'clock, A.M., till 5 P.M.

There may usually be found in the Home, children ranging in age from five to fifteen years, of both sexes; and persons who are in want of such children, either for adoption, or to take into their families for a limited period, are invited to call and see them.

A list of children *under* five years of age, who are for adoption, will be kept here.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to "The Children's Mission to the Children of the Destitute in the City of Boston" the sum of dollars, for the purposes of the Mission, and for which the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge.

THE CHILDREN'S MISSION:

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES.

PASSING from Bowdoin Square into Green Street, one sees leading from it a narrow street, in which, a short distance down on the right-hand side, is an old brick building now used as a carriage-factory, bearing on its front a tablet with the inscription, —" Pitts St. Chapel, 1836."

Here, nearly fifty years ago, was the Howard Sunday School, " a branch of the first Sunday-school commenced in Boston by Liberal Christians, for the religious instruction of the poor and destitute." Here Tuckerman and Gray and Waterston labored for the poor and neglected; and here, Sunday after Sunday, came men like Elijah Cobb, R. W. Bayley, George Merrill, George Callender, F. C. Manning, John Earl Williams, and Albert Fearing, among those who have gone, and Charles Faulkner and Samuel G. Simpkins, among the living, — young men then, — devoting their lives to the destitute, orphan, and morally exposed children of the city. It was their one thought and endeavor to raise these children from their low estate and miserable surroundings, to furnish them with the care, advantages, and opportunities which had been denied them, and to teach them how to live. For this these friends met to consult together, hoping to fix upon some plan to effect the desired end.

It was a little girl, a scholar in this Sunday-school, who, out of her loving and tender heart, spoke the word which first suggested the idea of a work for children by children, which should excite and put in active operation the benevolent emotions of the more favored for the succor and relief of the suffering and neglected.

" *Father, can't we children do something to help those poor little ones?* " was the question which came from the child whose heart had been moved by what she had heard her father and

his friends say, when lamenting the condition of the neglected children who were "infesting the lanes, streets, and wharves of our city, and who were destined, unless surrounded by better influences, to become the pests of society," and which led to the formation of

THE CHILDREN'S MISSION TO THE CHILDREN OF THE DESTITUTE.

"This," says Mr. Waterston, one of the earliest friends of the Mission, "was the spark that kindled the flame. The words passed from one to another, until hundreds of the young people were saying, 'Why cannot *we* do something? With some little effort and self-denial *we* can contribute. Such sacrifice will impart added joy if by so doing we can elevate the degraded, instruct the ignorant, and reclaim the wandering.' So the good word passed on till one heart after another kindled, and a multitude were ready to say, 'Why may not we try to do some good? Do let us help!' Thus many hands were eager and many hearts were warm."

"It is pleasant," says Mr. Waterston again, "to go back (considerably more than a quarter of a century), and trace the early stages of this noble work. The planting of the seed which has developed into so thrifty and fruitful a plant,— a tree with expanding branches, and laden with richest fruitage."

On the 9th of May, 1849, the Children's Mission was organized, a constitution adopted, and active work was soon after commenced. An invitation was given to children, and particularly to those in Sunday-schools, to join heartily in helping to carry it on.

THE OBJECT OF THE CHILDREN'S MISSION,

says its first president, — Mr. John Earl Williams, — in his first annual report, "was twofold. In the first place, to create a special mission to the poor, ignorant, neglected children of this city; to gather them into day and Sunday schools; to procure places and employment for them; and, generally, to adopt and pursue such measures as would be most likely to save or rescue them from vice, ignorance, and degradation.

In the second place, to raise a sufficient sum of money to meet the expenses of the Mission, by voluntary contributions from the children of the several Sunday-schools connected with the Unitarian churches. It was thought that, by a little self-denial on the part of the children, a sufficient sum might be raised to carry into practical operation this beautiful idea, and to show, even to the child, that it is more blessed to give than to receive. The hope was entertained that we might thus plant in the youthful mind the seeds of benevolence, and lay the foundations as firmly in *charity* as in justice itself."

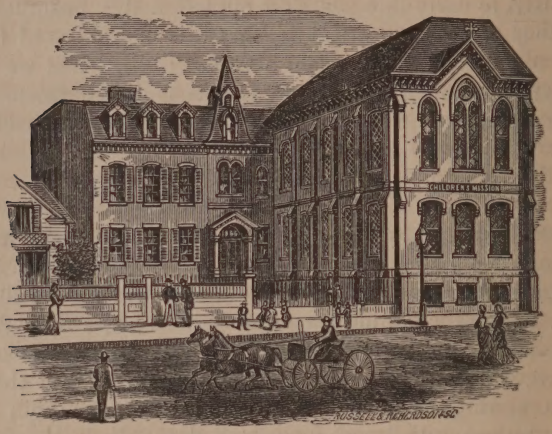
The Active Work of the Mission

was commenced by the employment of Mr. Barry as missionary, who began his labors on the wharves, and in the streets in their neighborhood, where he found scores of children under the very worst influences and growing up candidates for the house of correction and prison. A Sunday-school was opened, which gathered in children from all parts of the city, and a sewing-school for girls, — the classes in both being taught by young ladies who engaged devotedly in the service. As time passed, the work increasing from year to year, more missionaries and helpers were added, the schools were continued with increasing numbers, other meetings were commenced, hundreds of children were yearly provided with permanent homes in New England, and from time to time parties of children were sent to the West and placed in good families.

Feeling all these years the need of proper accommodations, the Mission, by its committee, asked of its friends funds to provide a building which should afford facilities for its schools, its Sunday and weekly meetings, and all its various operations ; with the addition of a *Home* where it could gather in its children and provide for them until permanently placed, and extend its work by the care of the children of sick or destitute parents, who by temporary aid would be enabled to resume their charge.

Immediately after this call an offer of *five thousand dollars* was generously made by one of the earliest friends of the Mission, whose example was at once followed by two others

with equal amounts, and the needed sum was made up in gifts from a large number of children and friends interested in the work. With the money thus given a suitable lot of land was purchased, and



THE MISSION BUILDING,

where the work is now centred, was erected.

The part of the building in front contains the chapel, the school and play rooms, a store-room for clothing, the boys' wash-room, and in the basement the laundry and store-rooms. In the chapel, on Sunday, the Sunday-school is held, followed by a service for children and adults. Besides the children in the Home, these services are attended by children from all parts of the city, sometimes filling the chapel. On Tuesday mornings the "Ladies' Sewing Circle" meets to sew for the children; on Tuesday evenings the "Spooner Band of Hope," a society of young people connected with the Mission, holds its meetings, where they have readings and recitations, singing and instrumental music, and where they are occasionally entertained by professional performers, who kindly give their services. On Thursday evening a conference meeting is held and on Saturday afternoons a sewing-school, where girls who come are taught to make their own garments, and are given

the articles which they make. Under the chapel are the play and school rooms, which are for the special use of the children belonging to the Mission.

The main portion in the rear is the *Home*. Here the poor children, homeless and friendless, come, hungry and ragged and dirty, and find a home with kind and motherly care, and here they remain under the charge of the matron, — Mrs. H. M. Peabody, — until they can be permanently placed in good country families. Here they have all the comforts of *a well-ordered home*, with a school for their special benefit, and a teacher devoted to them. Here also come, for temporary care, the children of parents unable from sickness or poverty to support them. These remain for a limited time, and are restored to their parents as soon as they are able to provide for them. All these children, while in the Mission, are under the sole charge of the matron and teacher, whose aim it is to instil into their minds, — however short may be the time they are here, — some good which shall remain with them wherever they may go. The sleeping-rooms have nice, pretty, and comfortable beds ; the children are kept neat and clean, are furnished with good food and clothing, and trained in habits of neatness, order, and good conduct.

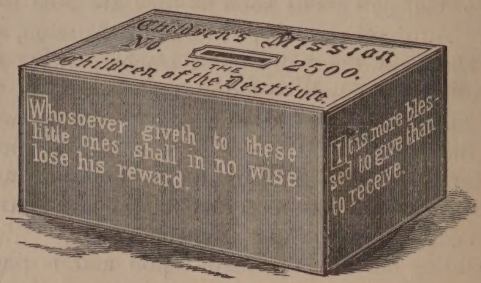
The building on the left stands upon and is part of the estate which has lately been bought for the protection and safety of the Mission. To pay for this we need a considerable addition to our usual receipts, and hope that friends as liberal as those who so generously gave the Mission its Home and chapel, will as generously contribute to relieve it from its indebtedness. It is the

Loving Hearts and Busy Hands of Children

that support and carry forward the Children's Mission. The readiness with which the children of our Sunday-schools have caught at the opportunity, wherever it has been offered them, of contributing according to their ability, is a very interesting fact. We know of children whose gifts have cost them time, toil, and self-denial. It is hoped and believed that the sympathy with the poor and suffering children, — suffering from the death and misfortunes of their parents, and more than tongue can tell from their selfishness, neglect, and intemper-

ance, — will extend more and more through our Sunday-schools, till all our scholars shall be found offering their free-will gifts to this excellent charity. No one who considers this Mission can doubt that it is calculated to raise, refine, and elevate the character of all who in any way participate in the good work. "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

The cents of the children which seem of so little value and which they spend so thoughtlessly, when collected together and devoted to a cause like this, help to form the solid foundation for the power that moves the world. Read some of the results of the work of the Mission, and consider what a child's thought supplemented by the children's penny has done.


Children's Mission
No. 2500.
To the
Children of the Destitute.
Whosoever giveth to these little ones shall in no wise lose his reward.
It is more blessed to give than to receive.

THE LITTLE MITE-BOX

is a very efficient worker in the hands of the children. A very pretty ornament for any centre-table, it is a convenient place of deposit for the weekly contributions of the children and for the occasional gifts of adult friends who are attracted by its suggestive mottoes, and who, by the short account of the Mission upon its back, are made acquainted with it and its objects. One of these mite-boxes will be gladly sent to any child or adult who will apply for it. It is also commended to teachers in Sunday-schools for the use of their classes.

THE LITTLE GIRL'S HAPPY THOUGHT,

which suggested and put into action this work of children for children, has influenced and set in motion, with great success, similar operations in other parts of our country and abroad.

Mr. John Earl Williams, our first president, and afterwards one of the most influential workers in the great Children's Aid Society of New York, said, in a letter to our first secretary, that "it would never have existed had it not been for the successful workings of the Children's Mission to the destitute in Boston."

The Catholics, fearing to have their children come under our influence, were led to active efforts, and our Secretary in his Fourth Report says, "The influence of this Mission has operated to form other associations for a kindred purpose, if they vary somewhat in form. Our Catholic brethren have established a house called the 'Angel Guardian,' where exposed and neglected youth are sheltered and cared for."

Thirty years ago the London Sunday-School Penny Magazine, in a notice of the Mission, strongly urged the establishment of similar work; and said, "Surely the ready sympathy of our Sunday scholars will rouse them to practical efforts for this great purpose, and a 'children's mission to the children of the destitute' may exist in each of the great towns of England."

The church and society at Washington Village, South Boston, is one of the fruits of this mission. Rev. Mr. Squires, who succeeded to the work commenced by the Mission in 1853, said in a report: "From the time Mr. Barry first collected the children and taught them on the Sabbath day it has been a blessing to the place, and a fit illustration of the parable of the mustard-seed. Mr. Barry's first class was the mustard-seed, whence have sprung both the Sunday-school and the Society in our village."

Five years since, in Ohio, the Christian denomination, borrowing our name, instituted a "Children's Mission," calling upon children for a *dime* contribution for the support of missionary work; and it is now in active operation. The children have contributed more than eight thousand dollars, and are employing twenty-five preachers and teachers in sixteen different States.

"The Mission has been a great blessing to the town of H ——— and its people," said a good lady who has been a very successful agent for us in placing children there and in the vicinity. "The children taken to that town by Mrs. Barry in 1870 opened the hearts of the people; and now," this lady says, "neighbors, seeing the sunshine and happiness brought by the little ones into these childless homes, say to me, 'Why can't I have a little boy?' 'Can you not send to the Mission for a girl for me?' 'Do go and bring me home a dear baby.'" And this kind friend has within the last two years taken nearly twenty children to these homes.

From what has been said, and from the children's letters which follow, the children of the Sunday-schools may know the result of the enterprise in which they are engaged. They know that they have taught the ignorant, reclaimed the vicious, relieved the poor, and made homes for the homeless. It has cost them some sacrifices; but we know that there is not one of them who would not cheerfully make them again. Will not every child in each one of our schools gladly help?

LETTERS FROM THE CHILDREN.

"DEAR SIR, — I thought I would write you a few lines to tell you that I have got a nice place. I go to school every day. I am in the grammar school. I read the Bible every night when I go to bed. I often think about you. When we come to Boston I shall come in to see you, and come to the Band of Hope meetings. Give my love to Mrs. Barry; remember me to my friends in the Chapel. I must stop, for it is time to get supper. When I write again I hope I shall write better. I shall write a longer letter. . . . We have a horse and a cow and 21 hens. I am going to set hens in the spring, which I enjoy more than anything else. The flowers are to remind of the spring. I stop, with love to all. CORA."

"DEAR MR. CROSBY, — I wonder if you ever get printed letters from little girls. I cannot very nicely. I have never tried to print a letter but once before, and that was to Grandmother B., who has gone to Boston to live. I hope I can do better when I write again. I am going to school, and have nice times with my playmates. Our Sunday-school is to have a Christmas tree, and I expect Santa Claus will bring me something pretty nice. I thank you for the pretty cards you have sent me. And now I wish you a Merry Christmas. I must now go to school; so good-by. From your little friend SUSIE."

The four following are from brothers: —

"DEAR SIR, — I thort that I should write to you to let you know that I am well, and hope you are the same. Our school commenced at the first of May, and it leaves off at the last of June. I am having a nice time out in the country. I know all of the boys and girls. I can milk a cow and harness a horse. I have a nice home. I go to school all that I can. I have a good time playing bat and ball every night. Please give my love to my brother that is with you. I should like to hear from Warren, and to know if he has got as good a place as I have. Yours truly, WILLIE."

"DEAR MR. CROSBY, — I hope you are well. I forgot whether you wrote to me or I wrote to you last. Well, nevertheless, I will write again. There is another boy come up here from Boston, so I have some help. I milk three cows, and so does he when our fingers are not sore. My fingers are sore now that I cannot milk. The way my fingers got sore was this. One day I was trying to set a trap, and the trap sprung and caught my fingers, and I caught a little squirrel in it. I am getting along nicely. I think I told you I have moved to N. Write soon. From your friend

WARREN."

"DEAR MR. C., — I have not got a place for Bertie yet. I go to school now, and I write with pen and ink. How is Bertie getting along? In the morning when I get up I go and do my chores, and then I bring in some wood, and then I get ready for school, and then when I get home at noon I do some more chores. Saturday I helped Mr. C. pick up potatoes. I only had 65 cents when I came here, and now I have got a dollar and 16 cents. I like to go to school here better than I did up there. I send my love to Bertie. From

ALTON."

"DEAR FRIEND, — I have 2 little calves and lots more pets. And love to all. HERBERT." [*Bertie was five years old when he printed this letter.*]

"MY DEAR MR. CROSBY, — I received your letter, and was very glad to hear from you. It is very bad out to-day. It is snowing and blowing all day; we can't see very far, and Mrs. R. says I must write to you. We had school only three months; our teacher got married. We milk twenty cows every night and morning, and feed 13 calves, and feed 5 horses in the stable. We have got 20 horses on the ranch, and a hundred head of cattle. I have a heifer, she is one year old, & I have four sheep all my own. I herd the lambs most of the time; it is just fun. I wish I had somebody to play with on the ranch. I have to milk one cow so to learn how. We have got 1500 sheep of our own, and Mrs. B. had 800 here all winter. I don't like to write very well. With best respects, yours truly, JOHN."

"DEAR MISS EWER, — I am very much obliged to you for the nice letter I got from you. It made me feel as if I had a mother when I got it. Now I must tell you about Thanksgiving. I had a very nice time that day. I went away with the lady and the children, and was gone almost all day. I was thinking about the children in the Home, and was hoping that they had such a nice time; and also of the poor little ones in foreign countries that perhaps were starving, in hopes there were none such. Now it will soon be a New Year; in hopes it will bring much joy to you all. I hope you are enjoying good health at present, and also hope you shall through the coming year. Now it is most half-past seven, and I want to go to prayer-meeting; so I will close with much love to you. Yours truly,

OLIVIA."

"DEAR MR. CROSBY,—I thought I would write to you, and tell you what a nice time I am having here. The lady and gentleman are very good and kind to me, and I have six pets. I have two chickens and two pigs and two calves, and I go to church and Sunday-school every Sunday, and have as nice lesson as I can. I have a very nice Sunday-school teacher; and I do not go to day-school, I study at home. Mrs. W. hears my reading lesson, and Mr. W. sets my copy in writing lesson. I had very nice times eating watermelon, but now they are all gone. Please as soon as you find my sister's picture send it to me. Tell Mrs. Peabody that I found my pin. Please ask Lulie to write to me,—and Mrs. Peabody, and you. Give my love to all the children, and my best regards to all the ladies. Yours truly,

MAGGIE."

"Oct. 4, 1882.

"DEAR MISS EWER,—I should have written you before, but I wanted the little boy to come so much I wrote Mr. Crosby instead. Papa is doing his harvesting, but I stay in and study, as it is my school now. I read, write, spell, cipher, and study geography. I went to A. at camp-meeting time, and stayed 2 weeks; had a nice time, and had my pictures taken, and will send one in this to the Mission. My sheep and lamb are growing nicely. We have 52 turkeys, a pretty two-weeks-old bossie, and shall have a mate to him in two or 3 weeks. Shan't I have a big yoke of oxen to break this winter? I have cunning little kitties. . . . Oct. 6, 11 A. M. This morning very warm and pleasant. I am quite a boy, 4 ft. 7 in. tall; my waist measures 2 ft. 1 in.; my chest 2 ft. 2 in., and my weight 65 pounds. Leo's dog goes home 16 miles; comes back every other day. . . . I dug my potatoes yesterday. I planted them July 3d., where I burnt some apple limbs in the orchard, and got most a half bushel. I raised 4 bunches of oats, and 7 bundles of wheat,—the wheat heads about 6 in. long,—and 4 bundles of barley. I wish you had some for a bouquet. Love to all in the house.

F. J. P."

"MR. CROSBY,—I was very glad to hear from you and get a letter from E. Mother said she was willing to have E. write to me any time she wants to. . . . My school has kept a week, and we have got good teachers. I like just as well as I did at first. We have nice times together at school at recess, and we go to walk every few weeks. We have temperance meetings here every week. I have been to meeting to-day. I suppose you have got a lot of children there now. We have a circle every week, and have had a Young Folk's Literary Society all winter; but they don't have them in the summer time, because the evenings are so short. I like to live in the country better than I do in the city. We can run out in the fields and in the pastures and round, but in the city there is no place to run. There are two large libraries here, and it keeps all the village reading all the spare minutes they can get. I must not write any more; so good-by. Love to all, from

ANNIE."

"DEAR MR. BARRY,—It is a long time since I have heard from you. Would like to see you. I have a lamb coming a year old. I have $2.39 cents on interest. I see my brother; he is well. We have 3 cows, and two pair of steers, and 7 sheep, and 2 pigs, and 2 horses, and 2 cats, and 1 dog, and 11 hens, and 1 rooster, and 2 guinea hens. We have some nice apples. I wish you had some of them. I go 2 miles to school. I beat my class in spelling, and I got the prize, and a box of dominoes. We have some plants; we have 1 pink with 2 blosoms. We have a good deal of snow, and no rain. It blows pretty hard here. We have a calf that is 2 weeks old; it is gray. Our school kept 13 weeks. I did not miss one day; we had a good teacher; her name was Miss C.; we all liked her very much. Write when you can, truly yours,

TOMMY."

"My Dear Mr. Crosby,—I received a letter from you July 7th, brim full of questions. I think it will take a pretty long letter to answer them all. I have planted and cultivated one acre; we have on it corn, potatoes, pumpkins, tomatoes, peas, beans, cabbages, turnips, citrons, parsnips, beets, and a woodchuck's hole. I have a trap in it, and hope to catch him as I have others. I have two long rows of potatoes for my own that ought to bring me five dollars; but the dry weather has hurt them, so I am afraid I wont get three. I have a flower-garden, and in it portulacca, zinnias, coreopsis, petunias, larkspur, sweet-peas, candy-tufts, and many others; some in blossom, some going to seed. The hens are doing well; we have 93, and get from 35 to 50 eggs a day. Have raised about 150 chickens. My talking hen did not want to sit; and as she got very fat I sold her for 82 cents, and set one of Mrs. M.'s hens, and raised me a brood of 8 chickens. I am picking berries now; have earned $4.00, and hope to earn as much more. I made 96 cents one day, and 82 another. Don't you think that I did pretty well? . . . I don't think of any more to write now; please write again soon. Very truly yours, Emil."

"Dear Mr. Barry, — I received your letter, and was glad to hear from you; and I am glad that the children had a nice time at their tree. I am going to recite to-morrow over to S. . . . I thank you for the card you sent me, and I think it is very pretty. Please tell Miss Ewer I should like to have her write to me very much. Give my love to all of the children. I begin to feel, as I grow older, I must try to be more useful and try to make others happy. I am going on sixteen years old, and I shall soon be big enough to take care of myself and get my own living. I must close, because I have got some of my lessons to get; so good night. My love to all. Emma."

"Dear Mr. C., — I arrived safely, and Mr. N. met me at the depot. I have a lamb and a calf to take care of. There are three cows and two oxen, that I get from the pasture every night. I am learning how to milk the cows. I have all the new milk I can drink. I am growing too big for my clothes. It is haying-time, and I have a ride every day on a load of hay. Have any of the children left the Home since I have left? Give my love to all the girls and boys, and the teacher and Matron. I am having a splendid time. Please answer this letter. Yours truly, Bennie."

"Dear Mr. Crosby, — I hope you are all well and all the children, and Mrs. Barry and Mr. Barry, and Miss Ida and all that is in the Home. I am having a nice time. I have just come in from helping feeding the pigs and from herding 54 head of cattle. Mr. Visher has been down here to see me since I have been out here. I like Mr. Visher. . . . The man I am living with came from Massachusetts, and Mrs. P. came from the State of Maine. Mrs. P. told me to tell you she got the "Christian Register," and took very much pleasure in reading it; she will write you sometime. I like the country very much indeed. We got a melodeon in the house, and we all get together and have nice singing. There are three families living right near together. There was a nice dance Fourth of July. . . . There is a nice school in W. We have got 5 nice cows; we have got 4 stacks of oats and 6 big stacks of hay. We have got 3 big horses and one colt 3 years old, and 2 nice little colts, — they are 5 months old. I milk one cow. I am growing tall and fat; I will soon be as big as Mr. P., if I keep on growing. I can ride a horse. We got a dog and a cat; we got some hens. We don't raise any apples yet. Give my love to Mrs. Peabody. I can't write much more; I am getting tired. It is nearly time to go to bed; and I must tell you to tell my brothers to write to me. I can't say much more; so good-by, from Tommie D."

HOW TO HELP THE MISSSION.

GIVE SOMETHING.

GIVE *now*, and, if possible, give regularly every year. Give as you may be able, or according to your idea of the importance of the work the Mission is doing. Remember that it both *prevents crime and saves expense;* that every boy or girl raised from the ranks of the "dangerous classes" *lessens the tax upon society, and adds to the wealth of the community.* Remember the words of an eminent political economist: "If we will not consent to tax ourselves for the *prevention* of crime, we must be taxed still more heavily for the *punishment* of it. *The expense of one convict for one year would educate more than one hundred children.*"

ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO GIVE.

One great object of this Mission is to interest children in doing for others; and thus to teach them generosity, benevolence, and self-denial. Tell your children the story of the Mission: how it originated, what it does for the neglected and suffering little ones, those who have no kind parents to care for them, — and you will find their little hearts and hands ready and glad to help. Prompt them to share their little funds with their less-favored brothers and sisters, and teach them that our Father has so constituted us that our pleasures are increased by sharing them with others. Get them a

CHILDREN'S MISSION MITE-BOX,

which we will gladly send to any child or to any family that will use it. This is a very pretty and suggestive plan for helping the Mission. All members of the family will be interested in this; and many stray little coins will find their way into it, and return a good interest to the depositor.

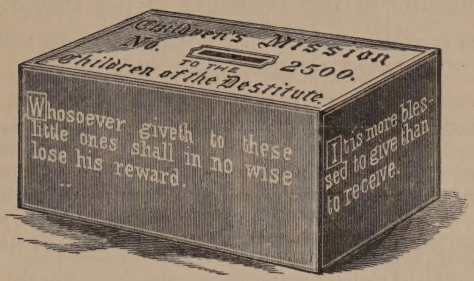
GIVE CLOTHING.

Mothers, when you are looking over the worn or out-grown clothing of your children, think of our little ones, and send us any thing that you cannot use. Shoes and clothing for children of any age, even if much worn, will always be useful in our little family.

HELP US TO FIND HOMES.

Another way in which friends can aid the Mission is by assisting us to find homes and places for our children. Here are, at all times, children waiting for a good home to open its arms and to take them to its heart. If you know of any good friend in the country who you think *would* or *should* take one of these orphan or destitute boys or girls, send us his or her name, that we may write them.

THE MITE-BOX.


Children's Mission
No. 2500.
To the
Children of the Destitute.
Whosoever giveth to these little ones shall in no wise lose his reward.
It is more blessed to give than to receive.

AND HOW TO USE IT.

THE mite-box is a very pretty ornament for the mantel or centre-table, having on three sides suggestive texts, and on the back a short account of the Mission. If placed in some prominent position it serves to inform visitors who see it, of the Mission and its work, and to remind friends of its needs. It is proposed that it be made the business of one of the children in the family to put the box

ON THE BREAKFAST-TABLE

every Sunday morning, and that each member put in a penny or more. Then on each birthday, let the one whose birthday it is drop in an offering; and at Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and Easter, let each remember the needy and friendless children by a generous gift to the mite-box; and on any day when one feels unusually happy, or has special occasion for thankfulness, let it be celebrated by a gift to the box. In some families a forfeit is paid by each person when late at meals, and in this way quite a number of dollars find their way into it. The small sums given in this way would never be missed by any, and if the plan should be generally followed, it would give a sum sufficient to enable the Mission to *double its work.*

TRY THIS, FRIENDS.

Send to the Mission for one of the mite-boxes, and use it in the manner proposed, or in any better way if you can think of one. Report the result to our Treasurer on or before the first day of May in each year.

*** The mite-box will be sent free to all who apply for it.

THE CHILDREN'S MISSION

TO

The Children of the Destitute in the City of Boston

was instituted in March, 1849, incorporated in April, 1864, and is located at No. 277 Tremont Street (near Hollis Street), in Boston.

ITS OBJECT

is twofold: *First.* A special mission to the poor, ignorant, neglected orphan and destitute children of this city; to gather them into day and Sunday schools, to provide homes and employment for them, and to adopt and pursue such measures as will be most likely to save or rescue them from vice, ignorance, and degradation; and to place them where they will receive such an education and be taught such occupations as will best fit them to support themselves, and enable them to become good and useful members of society.

Second. To excite in the minds of the children of the more favored portion of our community a spirit of Christian sympathy and active benevolence, and by interesting them in a work which appeals so strongly to their hearts to stimulate them to acts of self-denial and earnest helpfulness, and thus prevent the growth of those seeds of selfishness which are so often early planted in the young mind.

WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED.

It has found homes, in New England or the West, for more than seven thousand children, many of whom have filled, and are now filling, places of trust and honor, and nearly all of whom are, or bid fair to become, valuable members of society. It has afforded temporary aid to thousands of others, and thus assisted in keeping families together who might else have been broken up and become burdens upon the community or helped to fill our prisons. It has taught thousands in its day, evening, sewing, and Sunday schools, and is now continuing and seeking to extend all this work. In a word, "*it is doing all the good it can, in every way it can, to every poor and needy child it can.*"

IT DEPENDS FOR SUPPORT

upon the voluntary contributions of *children*, whose mission it is, and in whose name it works; of our Sunday-schools, whose child it is, and of which it has been said to be "the greatest honor, the greenest laurel, the noblest golden crown, with which the Sunday-school itself has ever been adorned and honored;" upon the donations of those benevolent men and women whose hearts are always open to the cry of children in distress and peril; and upon *legacies* from those large-hearted friends who, having done what they could for the good of others while they lived, intend that their good works shall not die with them.

IT APPEALS TO YOU

who are now reading this for your aid in *money* to help on this great and good work; for your *influence*, to incite your neighbor to give; for your *assistance*, to obtain a good home for one of these boys or girls, — our brothers and sisters, whom the Father has placed with us for the express purpose that you might have the blessed opportunity of earning that reward promised to those who serve these little ones: "*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*"

Any person desiring further information respecting the Mission will please address either of the missionaries, or

WILLIAM CROSBY, SUPERINTENDENT,
277 *Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.*

Boston Public Library
Central Library, Copley Square

Division of
Reference and Research Services

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(Nov., 1887, 20,000)

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*** No claim can be established because of the failure of any notice, to or from the Library, through the mail.

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